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MEMO

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TO Director Schiffman through Assistant Director Bellis
 FROM Mr. Lynch *[Signature]* DATE August 21, 1979
 SUBJECT Asbestos Dump, National Gypsum, Millington, NJ

The disposal of gypsum containing asbestos adjacent to the Passaic River in Millington allegedly occurred during the period 1927 to 1952 by Asbestos, Ltd. and Smith Asbestos, predecessors to the National Gypsum operation on this site. National Gypsum ceased operations in 1975 and has recently sold the property.

In late 1977 local residents expressed concern to the Department that asbestos wastes had been exposed through erosion and were being washed into the Passaic River during periods of high flow. The site was inspected by representatives of the Division and the Solid Waste Administration. It was found to be substantially stabilized and covered with significant vegetation. Exposed waste materials were observed, however, in some areas along its steep slope leading to the river.

Samples collected from the river above and below the site showed no increase in asbestos concentrations.

It having been decided that containment was preferable to removal, the Solid Waste Administration issued an Administrative Order to National Gypsum on February 16, 1978 requiring that the exposed waste materials be covered with soil. Subsequent discussions between SWA and the company resulted in the company agreeing to implement a plan to stabilize the bank exposed to the river.

An encroachment permit for the necessary work was issued in early 1979 and work was initiated. We have been advised that this work has now been substantially completed.

Frank Coolick of SWA has discussed this matter with Ms. Filippone explaining why no public hearing was required on such a matter. In addition on July 3, 1979, he forwarded her a copy of pertinent sections of plans for this project.

Ms. Filippone's contention that the bank stabilization project creates both a point and non-point source of pollution is incorrect. The objective is to reduce the potential for such pollution. Her concern that the dump may preclude designation of the Millington Gorge as a natural landmark may or may not be warranted. It must be recognized, however, that dumping on the site was initiated over 50 years ago, is no longer occurring and measures have been taken to minimize potential pollution from the site.

At this point it appears unlikely that a meeting with Ms. Filippone and area citizens to discuss this matter would be productive.

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